

Docket No.: M4065.0697/P697-A

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Examiner: Jennifer M. Dolan

John T. Moore, et al.

Application No.: 10/774,515

Allowed: June 6, 2005

Filed: February 10, 2004

Art Unit: 2813

For: METHODS OF FORMING A

SEMICONDUCTOR MEMORY

DEVICE

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents

MS: <u>Issue Fee</u> P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants agree only in part with the Examiner's statement for allowance. The Examiner's statement does not reflect all of the language of each of the allowed claims. The totality of the language of each claim provides additional reasons for the allowance of each claim.

Moreover, the Examiner's reasons for allowance are *not* commensurate in scope with all of the allowed claims. For example, the Examiner indicates that the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach, *inter alia*, "disposing a chalcogenide material over a metal layer, diffusing a portion of the metal layer into the chalcogenide material, and then removing the portion of the chalcogenide that does not contain metal ions diffused therein. The prior art of record provides no suggestion of a

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localized doping of the chalcogenide or that any portion of the chalcogenide would remain undoped." These claim limitations, however, are not present in any of the allowed claims.

For example, claim 51 recites a method comprising, *inter alia*, "forming a metal over a substrate . . . patterning said metal into a structure having an outer surface. blanket depositing a chalcogenide material . . . on said metal structure outer surface; diffusing a portion of said patterned metal outwardly into a portion of said chalcogenide material; and etching a portion of said chalcogenide material into which said patterned metal has not been diffused."

Claim 64 recites a method comprising, *inter alia*, "forming a patterned metal structure having an outer surface . . . blanket depositing a chalcogenide material on said patterned metal structure outer surface; diffusing a portion of said patterned metal outwardly into a portion of said chalcogenide material; and etching a portion of said chalcogenide material into which said patterned metal has not been diffused."

Claim 71 recites a method comprising, *inter alia*, "forming a first electrode . . . forming a metal layer over said first electrode; forming a layer comprising a chalcogenide material . . . irradiating said metal layer to diffuse at least a portion of metal ions from said metal layer into portions of said chalcogenide layer, wherein said chalcogenide layer comprises a first region with metal ions diffused therein and a second region without a substantial amount of metal ions diffused therein; removing said second region of said chalcogenide layer . . . and forming a second electrode over at least a portion of said remaining first region of said chalcogenide layer."

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Claim 72 recites a method comprising, *inter alia*, "forming a first metal layer . . . forming a second metal layer . . . forming a chalcogenide layer . . . diffusing a portion of said second metal layer into a portion of said chalcogenide material to form a first and second region, wherein said first region comprises metal ions from said second metal layer; and removing said second region from said chalcogenide material."

Dated: September 1, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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l l	Fees pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. 4818). FEE TRANSMITTAL For FY 2005			Complete if Known				
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SUBMITTED BY	100	$\prec\!$	Registration No.	20 274	Talastas	(202) 02	0 2222	
Signature	Tues		(Attorney/Agent)	28,371	Telephone	(202) 828-2232		
Name (Print/Type)	Thomas J. D'Amico			Date	Septembe	r 1, 2005		

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